LA BARBE D'OR
Maurice R. Meslans
2538 N. Geyer Road ● St. Louis, Missouri 63131

Early Silver *Antique Jewelry*

July 7, 1985

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed are three zerox copies concerning Louis Robitaille. I don't know if any of these books are available in local libraries. " cuillere " is properly translated as " spoon " and presumably " cuillaire " is just a variant spelling.

Louis Robitaille did work in Ste. Genevieve around 1800 so he might have travelled to St. Louis or was perhaps a resident here also. I suppose you know that Mr. Loisel was married in 1800.

I hope you will keep this information confidential for the time being as I may want to publish it later. When I organize my notes on silver I will send you some further information. Obviously I believe your receipt is important to the field of Missouri silver. If you ever thought of selling or trading it, I would be very interested. I have much the same attitude toward your pewter pitcher. I hope that if you ever decide to donate them to an institution, that you require that they be displayed.

If I can ever be of service to you please let me know.

made by
Sage
St Louis

Yours Truly,

Maurice Meslans

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From "Quebec and Related Silver at the Detroit Institute of Arts" by Ross Allan C. Fox 1978

Louis Robitaille

Quebec City and Detroit

1765–1821+

Louis, son of Pierre Robitaille and Geneviève Parant (Parent), was born at Loretteville, Quebec, in 1765. He married Louise, daughter of George Munro and Judith Lacroix, on 21 April 1789 at Quebec City (Tanguay, 7:13). His sister, Geneviève, married the Quebec City silversmith Jean-Nicolas Amiot (1750–1821), brother of Laurent Amiot (*ibid.*). On 12 May 1790, Paul Morin was apprenticed to Louis Robitaille for six years to learn the trade of silversmith; this contract was broken within a year. In 1791 Robitaille worked at 25 rue Sous le Fort, Quebec City, and in 1792 he was at 12 Côte de la Montagne (Langdon, *Canadian Silversmiths*, p. 120). By 1794 he was in Detroit; he and his wife were godparents at the baptism of François, son of François Gouin and Angélique Godet, at Sainte Anne's Church on 1 May 1794 (BHC). In the Campau family papers, there is an order from Louis to the merchant Joseph Campau for a pound of gunpowder, dated 6 and 18 June 1794 (BHC). In the same year he is mentioned as "Louis Robitaille, silversmith" in the business papers of John Askin, another Detroit merchant (BHC).

His daughter Victoire was born at Detroit in 1795 and was baptized 28 days later on 20 October at Sainte Anne's Church (BHC). She died at Lévis, Quebec, on 18 October 1796 (Langdon, *Canadian Silversmiths*, p. 120). It is not known how long Robitaille remained in Detroit; however, he continued to make silver for the Detroit area. In the inventory book (1819–1821) of Angus Mackintosh, merchant and Indian trader at Sandwich, he is included among the list of debtors: "Louis Robitaille, silversmith, £1/6/0 (BHC)."

LOUIS ROBITAILLE

41 Tablespoon, ca. 1800–1810

MEASUREMENTS
Length 21 cm. (8¼ in.); weight 52.1 gm. (1 oz. 13 dwt.)

MARKS
LR in rectangle (stamped twice on underside of handle); lion passant in shaped cartouche (stamped once on underside of handle) (fig. 54)

CONDITION
End of bowl worn

PROVENANCE
Philippe family, Detroit; collection James O. Keene, Birmingham, Mi.; gift to DIA 26 June 1961.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Keene (acc. no. 61.188)

DESCRIPTION
Old English pattern: slender, lightly chamfered shank gradually expanding to rounded, turned-down end with lip; ovoid bowl, and rounded drop at back juncture of bowl and stem.

This tablespoon is one of the few surviving pieces attributed to Louis Robitaille. It comes from the Philippe family of Quebec and Detroit. The original owner was possibly John (or Jean) Philippe, who came from Quebec and had a house and store (built in 1836) at the corner of Orleans and Atwater Streets, Detroit (FWR).

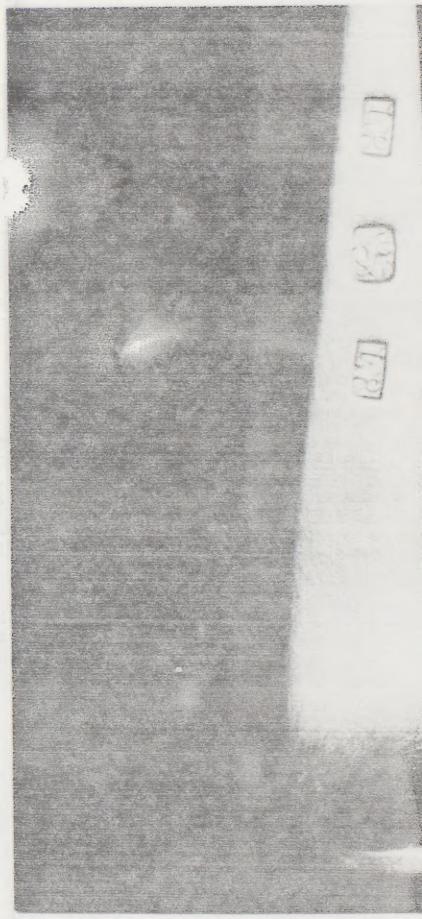


Fig. 54

from "~~Quebec~~ QUEBEC and ~~Related Silver~~" ~~the~~ at the Detroit Institute of Arts by Ross Callan C. For

ROBITAILLE, JOSEPH D. (–1888–)

Quebec, Que. at 158 St. John Street.

ROBITAILLE, LOUIS (1765–1822)

Quebec, Que. at 25 Sous le Fort Street in 1791 and 12 Mountain Street in 1792. Born at Indian Lorette 1765. Married 21 April 1789 in Quebec to Judith Munro, daughter of George Munro and Judith Lacroix. They had one daughter, Victoire, who died in Levis 18 October 1796. Paul Morin was apprenticed to him on 12 May 1790. Agreement lasted one year, when Morin was apprenticed to Laurent Amiot for 5 years from 1 July 1792. His sister Geneviève married 25 August 1777 in Quebec to Jean Nicolas Amiot, brother of Laurent Amiot.

ROGERS, J. (–1818–)

Halifax, N.S.

ROJOUX, MARC (–1850–)

Quebec, Que. at 24 St. John Street.

ROLLAND, FRANÇOIS (–1788–)

Montreal, Que. Advertised *Montreal Gazette* 11 December 1788 importations of silver.

ROLLAND, J. B. (–1857–)

Montreal, Que. at 8 St. Vincent Street.

ROPER, JOSEPH (–1900–)

St. John's, Nfld. Located on Water Street 'opposite J. & W. Pitts'. Succeeded to business established by J. A. Whiteford.

ROSENBERG, H. (–1869–)

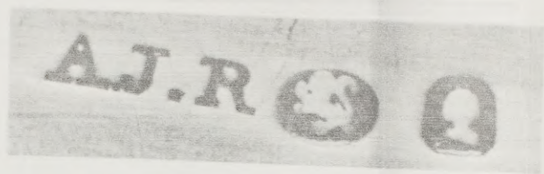
Belleville, Ont. on Front Street.

ROSENTHAL, ABRAHAM (1866–1965)

Toronto, Ont. at 125 King Street West. Founded business in 1895, 125 King Street West. Retired in 1960. Died 8 February 1965.

ROSENTHAL, A. J. (–1882–1903)

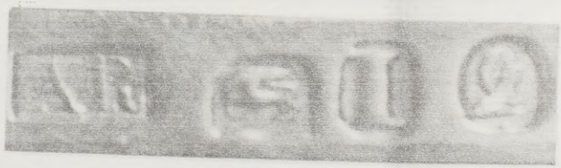
Ottawa, Ont. at 87 Sparks Street. Business taken over by Henry Birks & Sons in 1903. (See Appendix III)



ROSS, ADAM (–1813–1843–)

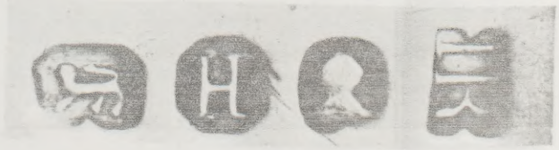
from "Canadian Silversmiths 1700–1900" John E Langdon Toronto Canada 1966

Halifax, N.S. Sil[illegible] and watchmaker and metal-gilder. Shop adjoi[illegible] of Henry Watkey, gunmaker, in 1818. Partnership with Daniel McDonald dissolved 5 June 1822. Advertised in 1826 [illegible]ces again'. Located on Granville Street. Discoverer of molasses: announcement made about April 1828. Advertised the same year that 'Persons finding their own silver will save 10% in manufacture'. In 1840 advertised he repaired umbrellas. Was working in 1841 when he lived 'second corner above Northrup's Country Market'. Died in 1843.



ROSS, J. (–1818–)

Halifax, N.S.



ROSS & CO., W. F. (–1877–1879–)

Toronto, Ont. at 83 King Street East.

ROSS & CO., W. G. (–1877–)

Halifax, N.S. at 159 Hollis Street.

ROSSIN & BROTHE[illegible] (–1832–1899)

Kingston and Toronto, Ont. [illegible] in Kingston in 1832. In 1843 [illegible] East, present site of King Edw[illegible] ness purchased by R. Wilke[illegible] business was sold to James E[illegible] was on Yonge Street near W[illegible] Rossin died in 1899 at the ag[illegible]

ROTHSCHILD & CO

Toronto, Ont. at 14 King S[illegible] West in 1885. Firm made an[illegible]

ROUND & CO., JOHN

Montreal, Que. (See Appendi[illegible]

ROUSOU, DAVID (–

Kingston, Ont. on Market S[illegible] seau.)

ROUSSEAU, DAVID

Quebec, Que. at 46 Crown St[illegible]

ROUTHIER, CHARL[illegible]

Quebec, Que. at 10 Mountain [illegible] tain Street in 1855. Following [illegible] on by his widow as late as 188[illegible]

ROWE, JOHN S. (–185[illegible]

Saint John, N.B. at 96 Prince [illegible]

ROY, MICHEL (–1799–

Montreal, Que. Working silve[illegible] on St. Lawrence Street. Sign[illegible] Chabilliez 6 May 1799 dividing[illegible]

ROY, NARÇISSE (–176[illegible]

Montreal, Que. Apprenticed [illegible] Made and sold silver to North[illegible] 1799–1803 (Quebec Seminary [illegible] church and domestic pieces. N[illegible] tors West Ward, City of Mon[illegible]

From "The Collector looks at Detroit Silver"
by Walter E. Simmons II, Assistant Curator metals, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum.

I don't know where this was originally published as I have a copy given to me by a friend.

continued to produce silver until late in the century. He is, however, decidedly an anomaly. No person or firm from this period is included in this article unless he is known to have sold silver, either from advertisements or from existing marked objects. The story of the jeweler is better told elsewhere.

SILVERSMITHS OF EARLY DETROIT

Jean-Baptiste Baudry **dit Des** Buttes **dit** St. Martin (b. Three Rivers, Quebec, July 3, 1684; d. Detroit November 20, 1755); w. Detroit, c. 1740-1755.

I. M. w. Detroit, c. 1720-1740.**

Charles Andre Barthe (b. Montreal Feb. 22, 1722; d. Detroit March 14, 1786); w. Detroit c. 1746-1786.

Pierre Barthe (b. Montreal after 1722); w. Detroit c. 1755-1763.*

Theophile LeMay (b. Montreal 1735; d. Detroit September 12, 1801); w. Detroit c. 1764-1801.

Jacob Harsen (b. Albany, N.Y. February 1738 — d. Detroit after 1800); w. Niagara Falls 1766 — c. 1779; Detroit c. 1779-1800.*

Francois-Amable Mailloux (b. Quebec July 10, 1739 — d. Detroit Jan. 22, 1808); w. Detroit c. 1780-1808.*

Gerrit Greverat (b. Albany, N.Y. c. April 21, 1745; d. Detroit c. 1790); w. Detroit c. 1769 — c. 1790.*

Joseph Schindler (d. Quebec 1786); w. Quebec c. 1760-1775; Mackinac 1775-1777; Detroit 1777; Quebec 1777-1786. His widow sold silver works bearing his mark in Montreal 1786-1802.**

Francois-Paul Malcher (b. France c. 1751; d. Detroit Oct. 16, 1810); w. Detroit c. 1793-1810.**

John Visger (b. Schenectady, N.Y. c. May 26, 1751; d. Detroit c. 1799); w. Detroit c. 1780-1799.*

Dominique Rousseau (b. Quebec c. Nov. 9, 1755; d. Montreal Feb. 27, 1825); w. Montreal c. 1766-1781; Detroit and Mackinac (?) after 1781.*

Israel Ruland (b. Long Island, N.Y., May 2, 1758; d. Detroit c. 1817) w. Detroit c. 1779-1817.*

Julien Freton (b. Grosse Pointe July 12, 1760; d. Mt. Clemens ? after 1820); w. Detroit and Mt. Clemens area after 1779.*

Mr. Mion w. Detroit c. 1783.*

John Kirby w. Detroit 1783-1789.*

John Kinzie (b. Quebec Dec. 23, 1763; d. Chicago Jan. 6, 1828); w. Detroit 1784-1787; Fort Wayne, Ind. area 1787 - 1789; Fort Defiance, Ohio 1789 - c. 1793; Detroit c. 1793 - c. 1798; St. Joseph, Michigan c. 1798-1804; Chicago, Ill., 1804-1812; Detroit 1812-1816; Chicago, Ill. 1816-1828. His marks: a crude I K in rectangle and I K, script capitals, in shaped punch are illustrated in Langdon, **Canadian Silversmiths 1700-1900.****

Louis Robitaille (b. Lorette, Quebec 1765; d. Sandwich, Ontario, 1822); w. Quebec c. 1784-1792; Detroit c. 1792-c. 1799; Illinois territory (?) c. 1799 - c. 1819; Sandwich, Ontario, c. 1819-1822. A mark illustrated by Ruth Hunter Roach, **St. Louis Silversmiths,** L R ILLINOIS, in rectangle may be attributed to this maker.**

Pierre Riopelle (b. Detroit April 5, 1772; d. Detroit March 11, 1811); w. Detroit c. 1793-1811.*

I. B. w. Detroit c. 1790-1800; Mark I B DETROIT published in **The Minnesota Archaeologist,** Vol. VI, Number IV, 1940.**

James Brown w. Detroit c. 1800. Possible owner of I B mark.*

Samuel Brown w. Detroit c. 1797.*

Isaac Brunson w. Detroit c. 1799-1801. Possible owner of I B mark.*

Pierre Dethuy w. Detroit early 19th century.*

Antoine Oneille w. Detroit 1797 - c. 1803; Vincennes, Ind. c. 1803 - c. 1820; Missouri Territory c. 1820 - after 1827.**

Augustin Lagrave (b. Montreal Sept. 18, 1777; d. Assumption, Ontario 1825); w. Detroit c. 1800-1825.**

James Sibley (b. Thompsonville, Conn., 1779; d. Canadaigua, N.Y., July 31, 1865); w. Albany, N.Y., c. 1800-1803; Canandaigua, N.Y., 1803-1826; Ann Arbor, Mich., c. 1826-1836; Detroit 1836 - c.1843; Ann Arbor, Mich. c. 1843 - c. 1847; Rochester, N.Y., 1847-1850.**

Joseph Vessiere **dit** Laferte (b. Detroit Dec. 1780; d. Detroit Nov. 24, 1836); w. Detroit c. 1803 - c. 1810.*

Joseph Ruland w. Detroit c. 1800-1816.*

Jean Baptiste Piquette (b. Montreal 1781; d. Detroit April 24, 1813); w. Detroit c. 1803-1813.**

Pierre-Jean Desnoyers and Jean Baptiste Piquette w. Detroit 1803-1805.**

Dominique Riopelle (b. Detroit Sept. 20, 1787; d. Detroit May 17, 1859); w. Detroit 1808-?.**

Jean-Louis Monet **dit** Boismenu (b. Detroit Jan. 28, 1790).

Levi Brown w. Detroit c. 1819 - c. 1844.***

Chauncy S. Payne (b. Schodack, Rensselaer County, N.Y., Nov. 16, 1795; d. Flint, Mich., Jan. 31, 1877); w. Albany, N.Y. 1812-1815; Detroit c. 1817 - c. 1826; Painesville, Ohio, c. 1826-1835. His mark, C.S.P., capitals in rectangle, has been noted on Indian silver.**; ***

Victor Rouquette w. Detroit 1818-1824.**

Jean Baptist Bequette (b. Montreal-?-); w. Detroit 1817 - c. 1826; Fort Wayne and Logansport, Ind.; c. 1826 - c. 1843. A mark, I B B , script capitals in rectangle, may possibly be his. He also could have used the I B mark recorded herein.*

Joseph Andre **dit** Clark (b. Vincennes, Ind., 1779; d. Detroit June 10, 1849); w. Detroit after 1804.*

Jean-(John) Baptist Piquette Jr. (b. Detroit Sept. 30, 1809; d. Detroit Aug. 24, 1851); w. Detroit c. 1836 - 1841.***

Charles Piquette (b. Detroit Feb. 4, 1813; d. Detroit Aug. 9, 1859); w. Detroit 1836-1859.****

John and Charles Piquette w. Detroit c. 1835.***

George Doty (b. Canandaigua, N.Y., 1818; d. Detroit Aug. 31, 1905); w. Detroit 1838 - 1863 and 1867 - 1874.****

George Doty and Daniel W. King w. Detroit 1866-1867.***

Thomas Burr Leavenworth (b. Bethany, Conn., Dec. 14, 1821); w. Newbern, N.C., 1842; Buffalo, N.Y. 1843-1851; Detroit 1852-1878.**

Anton (Antoine) Valentine w. Detroit 1845-1861.*; ***

Frederick Cruwell w. Detroit 1846-1854.***

Anton (Antoine)) Valentine and Frederick Cruwell w. Detroit c. 1852-1853.***

John M. Allison w. Detroit 1846-1870. His mark, JOHN M. ALLISON, capitals in rectangle, has been recorded. **; ****

H. B. Marsh w. Detroit c. 1847 - 1851.****

Lewis P. Durkee w. Detroit 1852-1861; Flint, Mich., after 1864.****

Martin S. Smith (b. Lima, N.Y. 1834); w. Detroit 1861-1889.****

FOOTNOTES: b., born; d., died; w., working; c., **circa**; *, known to be a silversmith; **, known to be a silversmith, mark recorded; ***, known to be a jeweler; ****, known to be a jeweler, mark recorded.